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What is Claimed is:

## 1. A medical apparatus comprising:

an outer surface having a side opening, the side opening for receiving tissue therethrough;

a cutter adapted to receive RF energy for cutting tissue, the cutter supported inward of the side opening and adapted to traverse a length of the side opening for cutting tissue extending through the side opening; and

a tissue stop disposed inward of the cutter;

wherein the tissue stop comprises a pole of an RF circuit.

## 2. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop comprises a ground of an RF circuit.

## 3. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop is deformable.

## 4. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop comprises at least one vacuum opening therethrough.

## 5. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the medical apparatus comprises a passageway sized to receive an endoscope.

## 6. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the medical apparatus comprises a cutting element supported in sliding engagement with slots disposed on opposite sides of the side opening.

## 7. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop is formed of an electrically conductive material.

## 8. The medical apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the tissue stop has a conductive material applied to one surface thereof.

## 9. 10. A medical apparatus comprising:

an outer surface having a side opening, the side opening for receiving tissue therethrough;

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a cutter adapted to receive RF energy for cutting tissue received through the side opening; and

a tissue stop disposed inward of the cutter, wherein the tissue stop comprises a portion of an RF circuit.

- <sup>10</sup>~~11~~. The medical apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the medical apparatus comprises a passageway sized to receive an endoscope.
- <sup>11</sup>~~12~~. The medical apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the medial apparatus comprises a distal end opening.
- <sup>12</sup>~~13~~. The medical apparatus of Claim 10 comprising a flexible sleeve for receiving an endoscope therein.
- <sup>13</sup>~~14~~. A method of cutting tissue comprising the steps of:  
positioning an RF cutting device in the gastro-intestinal tract of a patient;  
positioning a tissue stop in the gastro-intestinal tract;  
positioning a tissue mass against the tissue stop;  
energizing the RF cutting device;  
electrically grounding the tissue stop with respect to the RF cutting device; and  
cutting a tissue sample from the tissue mass.
- <sup>14</sup>~~15~~. The method of Claim 14 wherein the step of positioning a tissue mass against the tissue stop comprises providing a source of vacuum, and drawing the tissue mass against the tissue stop.
- <sup>15</sup>~~16~~. The method of Claim 15 wherein the step of drawing the tissue mass comprises drawing the tissue mass through an opening having length and width.

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1627. The method of Claim 16 wherein the step of cutting the tissue sample comprises drawing an energized portion of the cutting device across a length of the opening.

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